lease, land to the slum-dwellers who occupy Railway land in Bombay City; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Water shortage crises in Madhya Pradesh**

*333. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of information collected by the Central Study Team which visited various districts of Madhya Pradesh for surveying the crisis caused by drinking water shortage, after discussions with various sources like farmers, field-staff, public representatives, etc.;

(b) whether the State Government have sought Central help in this regard; if so, the amount and the nature thereof;

(c) the steps taken by Government thereafter to meet the situation; and

(d) whether any long-term steps have been considered to meet such a situation in the future; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA): (a) The Central Team which visited Madhya Pradesh from 28th to 30th December, 1989 collected details regarding rainfall, scarcity of drinking water supply in rural and urban areas, requirement of assistance to tackle the scarcity conditions including transportation of water, various other points mentioned in the Memorandum for drought relief submitted by the State Government in December, 1989.

(b) The State Government had sought Central assistance of Rs. 24.383 crores (Rs. 17.016 crores for rural areas and Rs. 7.367 crores for urban areas) for tackling drinking water supply for the period 1989-90 and Rs. 36.57 crores (Rs. 25.53 crores for rural and Rs. 11.04 crores for urban areas) for 1990-91 (April-June). Assistance was required for installation of handpumps, pipe water supply schemes, blasting/hydrofracturing, riser pipes/extra deep handpumps, deepening of new dug wells and transportation of water.

(c) Based on the recommendations of the Central Team, the Central Government had approved ceilings of expenditure of Rs. 5.45 crores for tackling drinking water supply in rural areas and Rs. 3.09 crores for urban areas for the period December, 1989 to March, 1990. No assistance was recommended by the Central Team for 1990-91. Based on the acceptance of the recommendations of the Ninth Finance Commission, the revised scheme for financing the relief expenditure has come into existence w.e.f. 1-4-1990. Under this scheme, a Calamity Relief Fund has been constituted for each of the States including Madhya Pradesh. Under this fund, the State Government of Madhya Pradesh has been allocated Rs. 37 crores for the year 1990-91 for all sectors including drinking water supply. 75 per cent of this amount is provided by the Central Government as a non-Plan grant and the balance represents the share of the State Government from its own resources. Out of Central Government's share, Rs. 13.88 crores has been released so far. The expenditure on tackling drinking water supply is also to be met out of this fund. The State Government has to decide on all matter connected

with the financing of the relief expenditure.

(d) The long term steps for providing drinking water supply in identified problem villages are taken up under the normal Plan programme of Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply, State Sector Minimum Needs Progamme, Mini Mission Project Areas, Sub Missions under the National Drinking Water Mission etc. As on 1-4-1990, there were 146 'No Source' problem villages which have spilled over from 7th Plan to 8th Plan in Madhya Pradesh. Out of this, 26 problem villages have already been covered in 1990-91 (upto 30th June). All other problem villages have been covered fully or partially. The residual 'no source' problem villages will be covered with safe drinking water facilities by 31-3-1991. Out of allocation of Rs. 25.47 crores under ARWSP for 1990-91, Rs. 14.735 crores including Rs. 2 crores released for drinking water supply for tribal area project in Bastar district have already been released. About Rs. 2.75 crores is likely to be made available for the Mini Mission Project Areas in Jhabua and Shahdol in 1990-91 in addition to Rs. 10 lakhs already released for mini mission project arta in Rajgarh.

**Statutory Welfare Fund for construction workers**

*334. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) wheher it is a fact that the Government of Kerala have constituted a statutory welfare fund for the benefit of their fifteen lakh construction workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government also propose to constitute such a statutory welfare fund for the benefit of construction workers in the country; if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) A scheme drawn up in Kerala under the Kerala Construction Workers Welfare Fund Act, Fund to provide the following benefits to the members of the fund:

(i) payment of pension to members of the Fund;

(ii) payment of immediate assistance in case of accidents;

(iii) sanctioning of loans and advances for construction or purchase of house;

(iv) meeting medical expenses;

(v) payment of financial assistance for education and marriage of children;

(vi) payment of scholarships to children; and

(vii) payment of maternity benefit to women members.

2. The question of a Central legislation for construction workers which may provide *inter-alia* constitution of welfare fund also is under examination.

**Setting up of a Corporation for new rail lines in Tamil Nadu**

*335. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether anp discussions have been held recently with the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu with a view to promote a Corporation for taking up the new railway lines in Tamilnadu;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) A suggestion was made to the